



# Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Town Council

## Minutes of a meeting of the Full Council of Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Town Council held at Sports Hall - Newton Leys Pavilion on Tuesday, 24th January, 2023 commencing at 7.30 pm

**Present:** Cllrs E Kelly-Wilson, R Graham, Clark, Elhasoglu, Palmer, G Bedford, S Browne, L Campbell, K Ely, R Haine, E Hume, M Imran, M McDonald, E O'Rourke, A Segebrecht, T Stephens, M Wymer, A Khanom, Hussein and Osumili

**Absent:** -

**Apologies:** Cllr S Porter

**In attendance:** John Fairclough (Support Services Manager), Alison Brown (Finance Manager) and Delia Shephard (Town Clerk, for part of meeting only.)

### Min Ref

- FC22/23-89 **Councillors' apologies for absence**  
It was RESOLVED that apologies for absence as listed above be noted.
- FC22/23-90 **Councillors' declarations of interest in matters on the agenda**  
There were no declarations of interests.
- FC22/23-91 **Minutes of meeting Tuesday, 22 November 2022 of Full Council**  
It was RESOLVED that the draft minutes of the meeting on 22 November 2022 be approved as a correct record of proceedings.
- FC22/23-92 **Public Speaking**  
A member of the public made representations concerning Friends of Bletchley Station and thanked the council for the funds awarded through the community grant scheme and updated members on the work that had been carried out.
- FC22/23-93 **Minutes of recent meetings of committees of the council and to consider any recommendations contained therein not specified elsewhere on the agenda**
- FC22/23-93.i **Draft minutes of meeting Tuesday, 6 December 2022 of Community Committee**  
It was RESOLVED that the draft minutes of the Community Committee meeting held on 6 September 2022 be noted.  
  
The Support Services Manager drew attention to the committee's resolution to organise an event to celebrate the coronation and to a recommendation from the Employment Policy committee minutes from 19 January 2023 for consideration at the next meeting of the Community committee. It was agreed that members of the community committee would investigate what could be done to mark the coronation taking into account the issues raised by the Employment Policy Committee on 19 January 2023.
- FC22/23-93.ii **Draft minutes of meeting Tuesday, 13 December 2022 of Finance and Governance Committee**  
It was RESOLVED that the draft minutes of the Finance and Governance Committee meeting on 13 December 2022 be noted.



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It was RESOLVED that the interim audit report for 2022-23 be approved.

It was RESOLVED that the annual financial risk assessment be approved.

<b>Adoption of Financial Risk Assessment (Resolution)</b>	
Councillor Ethaniel Kelly-Wilson	For
Councillor Richard Graham	For
Councillor Stuart Clark	For
Councillor Shay Elhasoglu	For
Councillor Andrew Palmer	Against
Councillor Gavin Bedford	Abstain
Councillor Sam Browne	For
Councillor Liz Campbell	Abstain
Councillor Keith Ely	For
Councillor Ron Haine	For
Councillor Ed Hume	Against
Councillor Mohammad Imran	For
Councillor Michael McDonald	For
Councillor E'Amonn O'Rourke	For
Councillor Axel Segebrecht	For
Councillor Terry Stephens	For
Councillor Mariee Wymer	Abstain
Councillor Ayesha Khanom	For
Councillor Ismail Hussein	For
Councillor Uche Osumili	For
<b>Carried</b>	

FC22/23-93.iii **Draft minutes of meeting Tuesday, 10 January 2023 of Environment and Planning Committee**

It was RESOLVED that the draft minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Planning Committee held on 10 January 2023 be noted.

FC22/23-93.iv **Draft minutes of meeting Thursday, 19 January 2023 of Employment Policy Committee**

It was RESOLVED that the draft minutes of the meeting of the Employment Policy Committee held on 19 January 2023 be noted including recommendations concerning the civility and respect project to be considered later and the following recommendation for consideration by the Community Committee

**Minute reference EMPC22-239 vi**

It was RESOLVED to recommend to the Community Committee that the staff team did not have the capacity to deliver a Town Council run Coronation event during the Coronation weekend.

FC22/23-94 **Planning applications due to be considered by Milton Keynes Council**

FC22/23-94.i **22/03022/FUL - Flat A 128 Western Road Bletchley Milton Keynes MK2 2PU -**



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### **Proposed extension to the second floor of the existing flat building for the provision of 2 flats and replacement roof**

It was RESOLVED that the town council would object to the proposed development on the grounds of insufficient parking.

FC22/23-94.ii **22/03171/FUL - 49 - 51 Aylesbury Street Bletchley Milton Keynes MK2 2BQ - Change of Use of part of retail unit to form a self-contained dwelling**

It was RESOLVED that the town council would make no comments on the proposed development.

FC22/23-94.iii **22/03172/LBC - 49 - 51 Aylesbury Street Bletchley Milton Keynes MK2 2BQ - Listed Building Consent for change of use of part of retail unit to form a self-contained dwelling**

It was RESOLVED that the town council would make no comments on the proposed development.

FC22/23-94.iv **22/03173/FUL - 49 - 51 Aylesbury Street Bletchley Milton Keynes MK2 2BQ - Sub-division of permitted dwelling into 2 No. studio units (as per previous approvals 18/01611/FUL and 18/01612/LBC)**

It was RESOLVED that the town council would make no comments on the proposed development.

FC22/23-94.v **22/03174/LBC - 49 - 51 Aylesbury Street Bletchley Milton Keynes MK2 2BQ - Listed building consent for the sub-division of permitted dwelling into 2 No studio units (as per previous approvals 18/01611/FUL and 18/01612/LBC)**

It was RESOLVED that the town council would make no comments on the proposed development.

FC22/23-95 **Financial Matters**

FC22/23-95.i **Summary financial report showing income and expenditure against budget to date**

It was RESOLVED that the financial report be noted.

FC22/23-95.ii **List of payments made or due to be made by the council before the next meeting of the Finance & Governance Committee**

It was RESOLVED that the list of payments made or due to be made be ratified.

FC22/23-95.iii **Approval of the town council's draft budget for 2023-2024 as recommended by the Finance and Governance Committee on 13 December 2022**

Members discussed the draft budget (V3) for the financial year 2023-2024 which had been recommended by the Finance and Government Committee on 13 December 2022 and had been circulated on several occasions including with the current meeting papers. In summary the draft revenue budget anticipated expenditure of £1,342,388 over the year 2023-24 plus a contribution to the rolling capital fund of £55,000 making total expenditure £1,397,388. Income from charges, interest etc was forecast at £287,682 and the budget also took into account a grant from Milton Keynes City Council of £68,907.

It was unanimously RESOLVED that the draft budget be approved without amendment.

FC22/23-95.iv **Precept for Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Town Council**

No changes had been made to the draft budget and it was noted that the Finance and Governance Committee had recommended that the precept was increased by 9%



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which would yield a sum of £1,109,705.71 in order to balance this budget. If the recommendation was followed the average Bank D precept demand would be £192.59.

Discussion followed and a recorded vote on the recommendation was requested.

It was RESOLVED that the precept be set in the sum of £1,109,705.71 with the annual average Band D payment at £192.59 and officers be authorised to submit the precept demand to the precepting authority accordingly.

<b>Approval of precept (Resolution)</b>	
Councillor Ethaniel Kelly-Wilson	For
Councillor Richard Graham	For
Councillor Stuart Clark	For
Councillor Shay Elhasoglu	For
Councillor Andrew Palmer	Against
Councillor Gavin Bedford	For
Councillor Sam Browne	Against
Councillor Liz Campbell	For
Councillor Keith Ely	For
Councillor Ron Haine	Against
Councillor Ed Hume	For
Councillor Mohammad Imran	Against
Councillor Michael McDonald	For
Councillor E'Amonn O'Rourke	Against
Councillor Axel Segebrecht	For
Councillor Terry Stephens	Against
Councillor Mariee Wymer	Against
Councillor Ayesha Khanom	For
Councillor Ismail Hussein	For
Councillor Uche Osumili	For
<b>Carried</b>	

FC22/23-96  
FC22/23-96.i

## **Property Matters**

### **Lease for premises at Barton Road, Bletchley**

The council had previously approved the leasing of premises at Barton Road for the purposes of providing a depot for equipment and staff in anticipation of the council's delivery of landscaping services from 1 September 2023. Draft copies of the lease had been circulated in advance.

It was RESOLVED that the signature of lease for premises at Barton Road, Bletchley be authorised and the lease be signed on behalf of the council by the chair and vice-chair as soon as all parties were ready to complete.

FC22/23-97

### **To note anticipated completion of adoption of Newton Leys Football Pitches**

Draft documents and drawings had been circulated in advance of the meeting and it was RESOLVED that the anticipated completion of adoption of Newton Leys football pitches as previously agreed be noted. Completion was expected within a matter of days. No concerns were raised by councillors.

FC22/23-98

### **Annual calendar of meetings for 2023-2024**

It was RESOLVED that the draft calendar of meetings for 2023-2024 be approved.



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FC22/23-99

### **National civility and respect project**

It was proposed that Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Town Council sign up to the national civility and respect project being undertaken by NALC and SLCC and undertake the following actions to enable it to do so:

- i adopt a new draft member officer protocol to replace the town council's previously adopted policy
- ii publish the civility and respect project bullying and harassment statement on the town council website and in council locations
- iii adopt the civility and respect project dignity at work policy

The Employment Policy Committee had reviewed these documents and recommended their adoption from the perspective of staff management.

Following discussion about the importance of maintaining high standards in public life and the value of the Civility and Respect project it was RESOLVED that the town council would sign the pledge and make the following commitment.

Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Town Council believes there is no place for bullying, harassment, and intimidation within our sector and signs up to the Civility and Respect Pledge as one of the ways a council can demonstrate that it is committed to standing up to poor behaviour across our sector, and to demonstrating positive changes which support civil and respectful conduct.

By signing the Pledge, Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Town Council is agreeing that it will treat councillors, clerks, employees, members of the public, and representatives of partner organisations and volunteers with civility and respect in their roles, and that it:

- i has put in place a training programme for councillors and staff
- ii has signed up to the Code of Conduct for councillors
- iii has good governance arrangements in place including staff contracts and a Dignity at Work policy
- iv will seek professional help at early stages should civility and respect issues arise
- v will commit to calling out bullying and harassment if and when it happens
- vi will continue to learn from best practice in the sector and aspire to being a role model / champion council eg via Local Council Award Scheme
- vii supports the continued lobbying for change in legislation to support the civility and respect, including sanctions for elected members where appropriate.

FC22/23-100

### **Digital heritage trail for Bletchley town centre (running from Bletchley Station to Fenny Stratford)**

It was RESOLVED that the proposal to develop a digital heritage trail for Bletchley town centre be approved by full council for inclusion in the council delivery plan for 2023 with details to be determined by the Community Committee.

FC22/23-101

### **Resolution of Milton Keynes City Council on 23 November 2022 concerning the work of town and parish councils in Milton Keynes**

It was RESOLVED that the following resolution made by Milton Keynes City Council



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on 23 November 2022 be noted:

**“Council motion – 23 November 2022 Community, Town and Parish Councillors**  
Moved by Councillor Hall and seconded by Councillor Raja (Minor amendment moved by Councillor Hume, seconded by Councillor Smith and accepted by Councillor Hall)

1. That this Council:

- a) notes the good work undertaken by Community, Town and Parish councillors in communities across Milton Keynes;
- b) acknowledges that this work is predominantly on a voluntary basis and can often go unrecognised;
- c) understands the valuable role played by Community, Town and Parish Councils across Milton Keynes and formally places on record its appreciation;  
and
- d) asks the Chief Executive to write to our County and City Parish Associations (BMKALC and MKALC) and to our parish and town clerks to formally pass on the recognition and thanks of Milton Keynes City Council, alongside the details of this motion.

2. That this Council:

- a) notes that around half of its Parishes have elections in May 2023 , and that at the last ordinary elections of these Parishes in May 2019, only 9 of 61 areas were contested, although 208 of 221 vacancies were filled;
- b) understands the difficulty in attracting residents to stand for election to Community, Town and Parish Councils, but expresses concern about the potential number of uncontested parish elections in 2023;  
and
- c) asks the Returning Officer and local parish associations to consider what practical and reasonable steps could be taken to encourage and support more Milton Keynes residents to stand for election for their local Community, Town and Parish Councils.”

The clerk drew attention to the latter part of the resolution and it was agreed that the Finance and Governance Committee would consider ways to encourage residents to stand for future elections including those in 2025.

The meeting closed at 8.06 pm